

Preparing for the 2010 Census

LUCA - Montana

The U.S. Constitution requires that the Bureau of the Census count the population every 10 years for the purpose of Reapportioning Congressional Seats. The Census is also used for:

- Redistricting state legislative districts,
- Municipal infrastructure planning,
- Per capita funding allocation,
- Transportation planning,
- Health care planning,
- And many other decisions based on population and socio-economic characteristics.

Census taking in the United States is done almost entirely by mail. The Census Bureau develops a complete list of addresses using the Postal Service and other sources. This list is called the Master Address File (MAF) and while every effort is made to have a complete file, many residential addresses are still missed.

Only with local assistance can the hardest to find addresses be included in the Census 2010 Master Address File.

What is LUCA?

The Local Update of Census Addresses program, also known as LUCA, is a decennial census geographic partnership program that will allow the U.S. Census Bureau to benefit from local knowledge in developing its Master Address File for the 2010 Census and yearly ongoing household surveys. Tribal, state, and local governments can contribute to a complete enumeration of their community by reviewing and commenting on the list of housing units and group quarters addresses that the Census Bureau will use to deliver questionnaires within their community.

Why is LUCA important to my community?

An accurate population count starts with an up-to-date and accurate address list. If a housing unit or group quarters address is listed on the Master Address File, it will ensure that the people residing at the address will be enumerated. A February 2003 Government Accountability Office report prepared for a congressional requester indicated that in fiscal year 2000, about **\$283 billion** in federal grant money were distributed to state and local governments by formula; states received their share of this money based in part on factors such as annual population estimates derived from the 1990 decennial census. When the population estimates were updated to reflect the 2000 census results, an **additional \$388 million** in federal grant funding went predominately to the 23 states that had above-average estimate revisions. **Clearly the stakes are high, and a complete count is vital to cities and towns nationwide.**

How can we prepare for LUCA now?

Organize Local Records:

- Building permits for new construction and conversion
- Housing inspection records
- Occupancy permits
- Planning or zoning records
- School enrollment records
- Tax assessment rolls

Update and Verify State/County Records

- Voter registration
- E-911

How can we participate in LUCA?

In October 2007, the Census Bureau will be conducting technical LUCA workshops in four cities in Montana: Billings, Glendive, Great Falls, and Missoula, to provide training for local and tribal governments in how to organize and complete the tasks set out in the program. These workshops will explain the program options, commitments, benefits, and procedures for participation. Invitation letters will be mailed to eligible governments in August.

For more information contact:

USCENSUSBUREAU

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(303)264-0290 or 1-866-511-LUCA

<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html>

or

Census and Economic Information Center

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LUCA Technical Workshops - 2007

